

## Global Unions Consultation

# Global Asbestos Ban Campaign

04 June, 2005 – International Labour Organisation (ILO) Geneva

### 1. Introduction

This has been prepared as an initial discussion document for a meeting of Global Unions on 4 June, 2005 at the ILO in Geneva, which will be held in preparation for a global kick-off of a campaign to ban asbestos that will take place on 8 June, also at the ILO. This document is available at: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL\\_7.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7.EN.pdf)

The main purpose of the 4 June meeting is two-fold:

- a) Commence the implementation of a world-wide campaign to ban asbestos by identifying the roles that the ILC 2005 trade union participants can play within the national or regional context; and
- b) Obtain feedback for the further elaboration of the goals and objectives of the campaign, as related to a work programme and agreed activities.

### 2. History & Background

In December 2004 the ICFTU's World Congress instructed the ICFTU and regional organisations, working together with Global Unions partners and affiliates, to: "*campaign for a total world ban on the use and commercialization of asbestos; promote ratification of relevant ILO Conventions; work with affiliates to apply pressure on national governments to cease the further use of asbestos; ensure proper, strengthened, safeguards to protect workers and communities that are or will be exposed to asbestos products; and implement employment transition programmes for workers displaced by the banning of asbestos, including economic support for regions that are particularly affected*".

In preparation for the Congress resolution, members at the 20-22 October, 2004 meeting of the Global Unions Working Party on Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (OHSE) agreed to an initial framework for the mentioned campaign:

- a) The campaign would be nationally-based with the aim of obtaining national government support for defined objectives
- b) At the international level the campaign would be framed within the development of two separate resolutions:
  - The first resolution would be prepared for final adoption by the ICFTU Executive Board in December, 2005. This resolution would aim to clarify the trade union issues relative to an asbestos ban;
  - The second resolution would be drafted after December 2005. It would undergo extensive consultation with as many actors, organisations and institutions as possible so as to eventually reflect the widest possible consensus on the banning of asbestos. The aim of the resolution would be to promote debate and its acceptance by the UN system and especially the ILO.

Global Unions have twice been invited to provide input for the drafting of the first resolution described in 2. b). The participants of the 4 June meeting in Geneva will be invited to review a resulting draft and to make recommendations. They will also be invited to provide input into the follow up draft resolution scheduled for early 2006, aiming for eventual adopting by the ILO.

### **3. Building national-level campaigns**

The 4 June consultation meeting will be asked to provide input on how best to yield effective results in obtaining a ban, given the different asbestos uses and history of each country and taking into account the distinct organizational roles of trade union centres at the national level, compared to sectoral union bodies such as the Global Union Federations and their affiliates:

***National-Level Trade Union Bodies:*** National Governments would be the main targets of this global asbestos campaign. For this reason the main organizational focus of a global asbestos campaign will be with national-level trade union affiliates of the ICFTU and WCL and will aim to facilitate capacity building and cooperation among trade unions at the national level. Here it would be important to identify the country priorities where targeted action is needed and to identify how the shared experience of other trade union bodies already dealing with asbestos can be brought to bear on desired outcomes (see #6 below).

***International, Regional and Sectoral Organisations:*** It will be important for international and regional trade union bodies and organisations to participate in the campaign by developing policies, programmes and specific actions that will encourage countries to move toward an asbestos ban as soon as possible. The campaign must seek to call upon these relevant bodies to support national-level networks and coalitions and to engage in common actions with trade unions in those countries. This is particularly important with respect to the Global Union Federations, some of which already have a campaign history with respect to asbestos and a national base of activity in some countries. Developing mutually supportive actions and learning from each other would be of great importance.

In this context it would also be of considerable importance to take advantage of the structures and capacities of other non-trade union international organizations, which are many and include many NGOs, professional groups, as well as key inter-governmental bodies, like the ILO, OECD and WHO. All these should form part of our strategy and be made to deliver action and influence within the regional context, especially through respective networks and institutional capacities.

***Tripartite Approaches and Employer Organisations:*** As much as possible national campaigns should reflect ILO tripartite approaches, with the aim of engaging employers and governments in a common vision with worker organizations and other groups. Specific actions and/or opportunities of involvement in campaigns would need to be identified for asbestos producers and consumers as well as those actors involved in producing and promoting alternatives.

### **4. Employment Transition & Promotion of Asbestos Alternatives**

The October 2004 OHSE Working Party emphasized the importance of properly developing and integrating an employment transition aspect into the asbestos campaign. It very likely

that jobs would be lost and others created in an overall ban asbestos scenario. However, the actions of government must ensure that workers who lose their livelihood are provided with fair compensation where applicable, supplemented with proper training and re-employment programmes. How this will be done and who will pay for such programmes will have to be planned for through extensive discussion and negotiations. Funding for 'Just Transition' programmes would have to be contemplated through taxes, special levies and other financial instruments and measures. Moreover, the involvement of business and employers would be required for planning the production and market changes required by an asbestos ban.

To some extent employment transition could take place within the context of economic planning for the promotion of alternative uses of asbestos and for the safe handling and disposal of discontinued asbestos. Employment in research and related fields could be expanded to promote a better monitoring of asbestos and facilitate a better understanding of the connections between exposure to asbestos fibres and asbestos-induced diseases.

These are obvious examples where employment promotion could take place. They highlight the importance of conducting employment assessments so that job losses could be predicted and addressed and job opportunities identified. This will require the political will of governments and the support of broad sectors of society, including trade unions, as well as producers, users and processors.

## **5. Conventions, Instruments and Measures As Building Blocks**

It is quite clear that many tools already exist for countries to plan a smooth and effective transition to a non-asbestos based society. Over the years the ILO has developed an array of Instruments and measures that could be applied to facilitate changes. Indeed the ILO itself must be called upon to fulfill its mission and to encourage proper implementation where Conventions have already been ratified and to help promote ratification of others.

The most important Conventions are the following on this issue (see Annex A for Description):

- ILO C81 Labour Inspection Convention;
- ILO C121 Benefits in the Case of Employment Injury Convention;
- **ILO C122 Employment Policy Convention;**
- **ILO C139 Occupational Cancer Convention,**
- ILO C148 Working Environments Convention;
- ILO C155 Occupational Health and Safety Convention;
- ILO C161 Occupational Health Services Convention;
- **ILO C162 Use of Asbestos at Work Convention;**
- ILO C170 concerning Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work;
- PIC Rotterdam Convention for Prior Informed Consent.

The Asbestos campaign would seek to highlight all these Conventions, but would emphasize the importance of specific ones (and especially those marked above in bold), depending on the priorities in each country. It would be important for the campaign to make the ratification and implementation of these Conventions key organizational building blocks of the campaign and to link the activities of the ILO to national and international strategies and planning.

The ILO C122 Employment Policy Convention and its accompanying Recommendation, in combination with the ILO Resolution on the Social and Economic Consequences of Preventive Action would constitute an effective framework for promoting ‘Just Transition, as an example. Similar configurations are possible for addressing a broad range of asbestos related problems, dealing with specific country situations.

## 6. Country Profiles, Ranking and the Asbestos Campaign Priorities

The October 2004 meeting of the Global Unions OHSE Working Party supported the development of an evolving set of country-by-country profiles to help identify priorities of the campaign. The aim of the country profiles is to make available information about asbestos-related production and trade activities, as well as associated socio-economic factors of each country. They also provide information about the current status of governments with respect to the banning of asbestos and for adopting, ratifying or supporting asbestos-relevant Instruments, measures or programmes of Annex A.

The most recent version (15 May, 2005) of the country-by-country profiles is the outcome of five separate consultations among Global Unions and beyond, over the past year. They are available at: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL\\_2.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_2.EN.pdf)

These country profiles would continue to evolve as the campaign itself expands and changes, and especially as information and feedback (see #3 above) is provided about national and sectoral activities.

*An analysis of the country profiles* was also the subject of consultation with global unions over the past year. The results are summarized in Annex B, where countries are grouped in three different major clusters, based on their separate characteristics:

- a) **Countries that have already banned asbestos** - Cluster #1: The focus of national campaigns for this cluster would be: *To Adopt a National Policy For a World Ban of Asbestos*;
- b) **Countries that neither produce asbestos nor engage in its trade** (though some of these may still consume asbestos) - Cluster #2: The focus of national campaigns for this cluster would be: *To Support a World Ban and to Strengthen National Measures*; and
- c) **Target countries where a national ban would be called for** - Cluster #3: This is where production and trade of asbestos is highest. The focus of national campaigns for this cluster would be: *To Adopt a National Ban of Asbestos*.

The country profiles themselves identify each country’s possible campaign focus (see the heading “National Campaign”). A separate list of national campaign priorities is also identified in the Annex.

Cluster #1 countries would be called upon to strongly promote a world ban and to support the overall development of this campaign. Cluster #2 countries would be called upon to do *either or both*, depending on their situations. Cluster #3 countries would be the main target for adopting a *national* asbestos ban. Cluster #1 and cluster #2 countries would also be called upon to engage with Global Unions in convincing cluster #3 countries to adopt a national ban.

See copies at the end of this document of the resulting letters delivered to governments at the June, 2005 meeting of the International Labour Organisation.

## **7. Building a Campaign Work Programme**

### ***A. The pre asbestos campaign period:***

(From late 2004 to the June 2005 Kick-off)

- a) 2004 OHSE Working Party process and recommendation leading up to the ICFTU World Congress Resolution adopting a global asbestos ban;
- b) Consultation with Global Unions, ILO and WHO to clarify campaign objectives and common areas of work;
- c) Updating and completing of asbestos country profiling and communication system management preparations. Setting up a campaign electronic forum and national contacts database;
- d) Initial steps toward adopting policy for banning of asbestos or for announcing the June campaign kick-off, i.e. actions by IFBWW (November 2004 – Japan Global Asbestos Congress), IMF (Congress in May 2005 - Asbestos kick-off in Vienna), ILO (adoption of the ban at the May 2005 Respiratory Diseases Conference in Beijing), ICFTU/TUAC (Announcing kick-off in May 2005 to governments at the UN CSD and WHO assembly);
- e) Preparations for June 4 and 8, 2005 kick off meetings at the ILO, including. draft resolution and initial discussion document:

### ***B. The June Kick-off Meetings:***

(from June 4-8, 2005)

- a) Engage in a lobbying effort at the ILO with governments, trade unions and employers. For this purpose, a special kit for each country constituent will be circulated at ILC along with information materials. This kit will contain :
  - An individualised Global Union letter to each leader of the government delegation attending ILC. The content of the letter will vary according to the asbestos rankings in the Annex;
  - A copy of the country's portion of the asbestos country profiles;
  - A copy of a short questionnaire requesting recipients to identify employer, government and trade union campaign contact points for their country;
  - A copy of asbestos ABC's Backgrounder from ILO Encyclopaedia;
  - The June 8 Invitation Poster For the Campaign Kick-off.
- b) Organise official 8 June Kick-Off Ceremony at the ILO (to be discussed at the June 4 meeting)

### ***C. An Asbestos Campaign Period – A provisional outline:***

(from June kick-off to June 2006)

- a) A copy of the above kit (see B.a.) will also be mailed to all affiliates of ICFTU/TUAC requesting them to commence follow up on its contents with their government and to consider ways of creating and building a national campaign, as needed;
- b) Follow up to the 8 June kick-off with sectoral and national level actions by trade unions and other bodies, [as outlined in the 4 June discussion document](#);

- c) Consider organising capacity building workshop(s) to build national support for ILO resolutions and for national –level campaigns (to be organised regionally along cluster lines);
- d) Develop a country and regional level reporting process to track and evaluate progress and for the production of periodic summary updates;
- e) Oversight of country lobbying and information dissemination;
- f) Oversight and coordination of related institutional activities;
- g) Coordination of exchange of information, experiences and best practice among and between actors in country clusters;
- h) Drafting and circulation of 2006 resolution (see # 1.b above)
- i) **Asbestos Campaign Resources and Budgetary Considerations:**
  - Identification of financial resources
  - Equivalent months of work + office + administrative support;
  - Communications and database management services and training;
  - Materials production and translation;
  - In kind support and secondments (especially at the regional levels);
  - Other?

## Annex A

### Instruments and Measures: The Building Blocks Of An Asbestos Campaign

- **ILO C81, Labour Inspection Convention.** The Convention is to be applied to all industrial workplaces, though mining and transportation undertakings may be exempted by national laws or regulations. It defines the functions of labour inspection systems, the qualification, independence, minimal numbers and powers of inspection staff, and the contents of annual reports to be submitted by central inspection authorities. The provisions of the Convention shall also apply to commercial workplaces.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>
- **ILO C121 Benefits in the Case of Employment Injury Convention.** The Convention prescribes the conditions for the compensation of occupational accidents and diseases. In annexes: list of occupational diseases (countries ratifying the Convention can add other diseases to this list); periodical payments to standard beneficiaries; the International Standard Industrial Classification (main categories). The Recommendation contains further prescriptions on the scope of compensation coverage, modalities of payment etc.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>
- **ILO C139, Occupational Cancer Convention,** with accompanying Recommendation 147 (pursuant to art. 2 of the Convention) - provides for efforts to replace cancer-causing agents with safe products.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>
- **ILO C148, Working Environments Convention.** (air pollution, noise and vibration) with accompanying Recommendation 156 – employment transition issues.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>
- **ILO C155, Occupational Health and Safety Convention** – general health and safety provisions. The international regime for workplace health and safety is summed up in this Convention The precepts contained in this Convention are: i) co-operation at the workplace between workers and employers as jointly responsible for the work environment, e.g., through joint health and safety committees; ii) the right of workers to refuse unsafe and unhealthy work (also to be found in the recent ILO Convention on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents); iii) the right to information and training; and iv) specific government provision for health and safety, in the form of health and safety legislation and regulations; government resources devoted to health and safety.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>
- **ILO C161, Occupational Health Services Convention.** It sets out the principles of national policy (definition of the terms "occupational health services" and "workers' representatives in the undertaking", development of these services), and the functions, organisation and conditions of operation of health services. The Recommendation outlines the aspects to be covered by: surveillance of the working environment; surveillance of the workers' health; information, education, training, advice; first aid, treatment and health programmes; other functions of occupational health services.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>
- **ILO C162. Use of Asbestos at Work Convention** with accompanying Resolution 172 – the main Instrument providing for the handling and uses of asbestos, including its ban.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>.
- **ILO C170 concerning safety in the use of chemicals at work Convention .** Aspects covered: scope and definitions, general principles, classification and related measures, responsibilities of employers, duties of workers, rights of workers and their representatives, responsibility of exporting states.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>
- **PIC, Rotterdam Convention.** Toxic pesticides and other hazardous chemicals kill or seriously sicken thousands of people every year. They also poison the natural environment and damage many wild animal species. Governments started to address this problem in the 1980s by establishing a voluntary Prior Informed Consent procedure. PIC required exporters trading in a list of hazardous substances to obtain the prior informed consent of importers before proceeding with the trade. In 1998, governments decided to strengthen the procedure by adopting the Rotterdam Convention, which makes PIC legally binding. The Convention establishes a first line of defense by giving importing countries the tools and information they need to identify potential hazards and exclude chemicals they cannot manage safely. If a country agrees to import chemicals, the Convention promotes their safe use through labeling standards, technical assistance, and other forms of support. It also ensures that exporters comply with the requirements. The Rotterdam Convention entered into force on 24 February 2004.  
<http://www.pic.int/>

## EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION

- **ILO C122 Employment Policy Convention and accompanying Recommendation** states that each Member, shall declare and pursue an active policy designed to promote full, productive and freely chosen employment. It aims at ensuring that (a) there is work for all who are available for and seeking work; (b) such work is as productive as possible; (c) there is freedom of choice of employment and the fullest possible opportunity for each worker to qualify for, and to use his skills and endowments in a job for which he is well suited, irrespective of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin. The policy takes account of the stage and level of economic development and the mutual relationships between employment objectives and other economic and social objectives, and shall be pursued by methods that are appropriate to national conditions and practices. In the application of its accompanying recommendation, representatives of the persons affected by the measures to be taken will be consulted to put in place mechanisms to deal with structural change and financial or other hardships that arise from employment impacts and deal with re-employment, training, financial programmes and government planning. <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>
- **Elements towards an employment transition strategy.** The second category of the profiles is dedicated to Employment Transition. As this question is still underdeveloped, the indicator “Has Elements towards an employment transition strategy?” is basically posed as a question that needs to be answered by every country.
- **ILO Resolution on the Social and Economic Consequences of Preventive Action.** 59<sup>o</sup> Session of the Governing Body, 1974. This Resolution calls for special arrangements to give considerations to the social and economic consequences of early preventive action affecting workers and employees, including employment termination, re-employment, rehabilitation and other measures. [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL\\_1a.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_1a.EN.pdf)



## Annex B

### Country Clustering of Elements for National Asbestos Campaigns

*This Annex serves to identify the possible clustering of countries on given issues related to asbestos.*

#### #1a and #1b Country Clusters

This cluster includes countries that (i) have already banned asbestos (to some degree), and/or (ii) will ban asbestos because of obligations under the European Directive 2003/18/EC requiring such a ban. Some of these countries have not yet banned asbestos but for practical purposes we assume that this will become the case.

Campaign focus for this cluster: **Support a World Ban & to Strengthen National Measures**

1a	CHILE**	1a	SWEDEN**	1b	GREECE	1b	SOUTH AFRICA
1a	CYPRUS**	1b	ARGENTINA	1b	HUNGARY	1b	SPAIN
1a	FINLAND**	1b	AUSTRALIA	1b	ICELAND	1b	SWITZERLAND**
1a	IRELAND	1b	AUSTRIA	1b	ITALY	1b	THE NETHERLANDS
1a	KUWAIT	1b	BELGIUM**	1b	JAPAN**	1b	UNITED KINGDOM
1a	LATVIA	1b	CROATIA**	1b	LITHUANIA	1b	URUGUAY**
1a	MALTA	1b	CZECH REPUBLIC	1b	LUXEMBOURG		
1a	MONACO	1b	DENMARK	1b	POLAND		
1a	NEW ZEALAND	1b	ESTONIA	1b	PORTUGAL**		
1a	NORWAY	1b	FRANCE	1b	SAUDI ARABIA		
1a	SLOVENIA**	1b	GERMANY**	1b	SLOVAKIA		

*1a countries* have banned asbestos. They neither produce asbestos nor engage in trade of asbestos (import or export).

*1b countries* have also banned asbestos but either still produce OR engage in some trade of asbestos (import or export).

\*\*Countries that have Ratified ILO Convention 162

Cluster 1 countries, and particularly 1a countries, may be viewed as 'models'. National campaign for these countries could include joint or tripartite efforts to:

- Adopt a national policy for a world ban of asbestos;
- Strengthen and broaden current national ban on asbestos (where appropriate);
- Strengthen and increase the rate of ratification of ILO Conventions (see Annex of Country Profiles), with some emphasis on ILO Asbestos at Work Convention 162, where appropriate (especially for non-EU countries) and on ILO Convention 139 on Occupational Cancer;
- Identify and keep records of existing stocks and uses of asbestos within the country;
- Adopt a strategy with an effective road map to eliminate the identified uses of asbestos;
- Ratify or strengthen implementation of the listed Conventions;
- Invigorate movement towards a world ban at the international level (CSD, ILO, OECD, UNEP, WTO, WHO and elsewhere);
- Employ trade, investment and other measures to pressure countries of cluster #3 to adopt a ban;
- Initiate or support capacity-building and awareness raising programmes for countries of cluster #2 and #3 where appropriate; and to
- Engage in training and education both domestically and through north/south and south/south exchanges.

**#2 Country Cluster:**

This cluster includes countries that (i) have not banned asbestos, (ii) have not ratified ILO 162 (except where indicated by \*\*) and do not produce, or engage in the trade of asbestos. Some of these countries, however, might still use or consume existing stocks of asbestos. For the most part, however, there would be fewer domestic reasons in these countries to oppose either a national or global ban of asbestos.

Campaign focus for this cluster: **Adopt A National Policy For a World Ban of Asbestos**

2	CAMEROON**	2	HAITI		LANDS		CIPE
2	COOK ISLANDS	2	HOLY SEE	2	MAURITANIA	2	SERBIA & MONTE-NEGRO**
2	COSTA RICA	2	HONDURAS	2	MICRONESIA	2	SEYCHELLES
2	CURACAO	2	IRAQ	2	NAURU	2	SIERRA LEONE
2	DJIBOUTI	2	ISRAEL	2	NEPAL	2	SOLOMON ISLANDS
2	DOMINICA	2	IVORY COAST	2	NEW CALEDONIA	2	SOMALIA
2	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	2	JAMAICA	2	NIGER	2	SURINAME
2	ERITREA	2	JORDAN	2	PALAU	2	TAIWAN
2	ETHIOPIA	2	KIRIBATI	2	PALESTINE	2	TANZANIA (REPUBLIC)
2	FALKLAND ISLANDS	2	KOSOVO	2	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	2	TIMOR LESTE (D. R.)
2	FRENCH POLYNESIA	2	LAOS (P.D.R.)	2	PARAGUAY	2	TOGO
2	GABON	2	LEBANON	2	QATAR	2	TONGA
2	GAMBIA	2	LESOTHO	2	RWANDA	2	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
2	GHANA	2	LIBERIA	2	SAINT KITTS & NEVIS	2	TUVALU
2	GRENADA	2	LIBYAN ARAB JAMAIRIYA	2	SAINT LUCIA	2	VANUATU
2	GUINEA-BISSAU	2	LIECHTENSTEIN	2	SAMOA	2	YEMEN
2	GUYANA	2	MADAGASCAR	2	SAN MARINO		
		2	MALI	2	SAO TOME & PRIN-		
		2	MARSHALL IS-				

\*\* Countries that have Ratified ILO Convention 162

Priorities for a national campaign in these countries might include joint or tripartite efforts to:

- Adopt a national policy for a world ban of asbestos;
- Seek ratification of ILO and PIC Conventions, where appropriate;
- Identify and keep records of existing stocks and uses of asbestos within the country;
- Adopt a strategy with an effective road map to eliminate the identified uses of asbestos;
- Support the principles of a ban in international institutions and events; e.g. CSD, ILO, OECD, UNEP, WTO, WHO and elsewhere; and to
- Initiate awareness-raising programmes.

**#3a and #3b Country Clusters**

This cluster includes countries that (i) have not banned asbestos, (ii) have not ratified ILO C162 (except where indicated by \*\*) and either (iii) produce or engage in the trade of asbestos. As this cluster includes countries that might have reason to resist a national or world ban on asbestos, it could be important to engage countries of Clusters 1 & 2 to apply pressure for theme to adopt national bans. This cluster includes the countries where the greatest challenges exist for the adoption of either a national or worldwide ban of asbestos.

Possible campaign focus for this cluster: **To adopt a National Ban on Asbestos**

3a	ALGERIA	3a	KAZAKHSTAN		TION**	3b	EGYPT
3a	ANGOLA	3a	KOREA (D.P.R. - NORTH)	3a	SENEGAL	3b	FIJI
3a	AZERBAIJAN	3a	KOREA (SOUTH - REP.)	3a	SINGAPORE	3b	GEORGIA
3a	BANGLADESH	3a	KYRGYZSTAN	3a	SRI LANKA	3b	GUINEA
3a	BELARUS	3a	MACEDONIA (F.D.R.)**	3a	SWAZILAND	3b	HONG KONG
3a	BELIZE	3a	MALAWI	3a	SYRIAN ARAB REP.	3b	KENYA
3a	BOLIVIA**	3a	MALAYSIA	3a	THAILAND	3b	MALDIVES
3a	BOTSWANA	3a	MEXICO	3a	TUNISIA	3b	MAURITIUS
3a	BRAZIL**	3a	MOLDOVA (REPUBLIC)	3a	TURKEY	3b	MOROCCO
3a	BULGARIA	3a	MONGOLIA	3a	TURKMENISTAN	3b	MYANMAR
3a	CANADA**	3a	MOZAMBIQUE	3a	UKRAINE	3b	NAMIBIA
3a	CHINA	3a	NIGERIA	3a	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3b	NICARAGUA
3a	COLOMBIA**	3a	OMAN	3a	UNITED STATES	3b	PHILIPPINES
3a	CUBA	3a	PAKISTAN	3a	UZBEKISTAN	3b	ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES
3a	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3a	PANAMA	3a	VENEZUELA	3b	SUDAN
3a	ECUADOR**	3a	PERU	3a	VIET NAM	3b	TAJIKISTAN
3a	EL SALVADOR	3a	ROMANIA	3a	ZIMBABWE**	3b	UGANDA**
3a	GUATEMALA**	3a	RUSSIAN FEDERATION**	3b	ALBANIA	3b	ZAMBIA
3a	INDIA			3b	BAHRAIN		
3a	INDONESIA			3b	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**		
3a	IRAN						

3a countries are those that produce, import or export asbestos in high quantities.

3b countries are those that produce, import or export asbestos in lower quantities.

\*\* Countries that have Ratified ILO Convention 162

Priorities for a national campaign in these countries might include joint or tripartite efforts to:

- Adopt a National Policy on the Banning of Asbestos;
- Seek and strengthen the ratification of ILO and PIC Conventions, where appropriate, especially ILO Convention 162 and 139;
- Develop employment transition measures through ILO Convention 122 on Employment Policy;
- Be guided by the ILO Resolution on the Social And Economic Consequences of Preventative Action;
- Identify and keep records of existing stocks and uses of asbestos within the country;
- Adopt a strategy with effective road map to eliminate the identified uses of asbestos;
- Initiate awareness-raising programmes.

### Asbestos Campaign Response Form

**RETURN this form to Lucien Royer at ICFTU/TUAC [Royer@tuac.org] or fax in Paris (331) 4754 9828**

1 Name of Country \_\_\_\_\_

2. Full name of the organisation filling out this form:

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Abbreviation \_\_\_\_\_ 3.

3. Full Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

4. Your asbestos campaign contact person:

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ 5. 1<sup>st</sup> Name \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Email \_\_\_\_\_

7. Industrial Sector or regional activity that related to asbestos (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Describe the concerns you have with asbestos uses in your country, region or sector and what you have done to promote its ban, nationally or globally .

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Your overall feedback to the Global Unions’ asbestos letter addressed to your government, along with accompanying Asbestos Profile:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you have correction or input for the asbestos country profile for your country

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you have suggestions for the Global Unions Asbestos Campaign internationally?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Please RETURN this form to Lucien Royer at ICFTU/TUAC [Royer@tuac.org] or fax in Paris (331) 4754 9828**

**Letter Delivered to Cluster #1a and #1b Governments** that have already banned asbestos  
(Delivered in French, English or Spanish).

**From the Global Unions** (Rnk1)  
**To the June ILC 2005 Government Delegation of:**

**«L\_Country»**

**(Hand Delivered): «L\_Country»,**  
**To: ILC Government Delegation**  
**c.c. ILC Worker & ILC Employer Delegations**  
**c.c. ICFTU & TUAC Affiliates (by Post)**

Dear Delegation Leader,

**‘Global Asbestos Ban Campaign’**  
**Support A World Asbestos Ban and Strengthen National Measures**  
**8 June, 2005 - Campaign Kick-Off, ILO Geneva**

On behalf of Global Unions we would like to formally request that your Government support efforts to ban the use and commercialisation of asbestos, world-wide. We would also like to invite you to join a trade union campaign kick-off for such a ban that will take place from **1-2 p.m., 8 June in Room XIX at the ILO** in Geneva (see enclosed information poster).

We are aware that «L\_Country» has already banned or will soon ban asbestos and we would like to appeal to your government to work with us, our member affiliate(s) in your country and the ILO in upcoming years to extend such a ban, internationally.

We believe the evidence showing the dangers of asbestos to be irrefutable. There is much literature available concerning the deaths due to asbestos of 100,000 people in the world every year, and the resulting costs to society. Some of the evidence can be found in different languages in the *ILO Encyclopaedia Of Occupational Health and Safety* at: <http://www.ilo.org/encyclopaedia/?find=&bsearch=asbesto&whereSelectSW=1>.

Attached to this letter you will find a copy of an asbestos country profile we have prepared for «L\_Country». You will see that it indicates an asbestos ban to be in effect in your country, and whether you are still producing this product or engaged in its trade. It also shows what relevant UN Instruments your government has or has not ratified, relative to asbestos and other socio-economic factors.

A similar asbestos profile (along with a fuller explanatory Annex, with references) is available for all countries at: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpl\\_6.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpl_6.EN.pdf).

An integral part of our campaign will be to promote the engagement of all actors in decision-making about the banning of asbestos. We invite governments to engage with employers and workers’ organisations, as well as with the broader community in developing their own policy for a world ban of asbestos. A very important aspect of our objectives will be to place the promotion of a ban within the social and economic realities of each country, especially with respect to potential impacts on employment.

If planned properly, job losses can be effectively offset by developing a positive employment transition process that is linked to the banning of asbestos. The ILO *Employment Policy Convention* 122 and its accompanying Recommendation, along with the ILO Resolution on the *Social and Economic Consequences of Preventative Action*, together can serve as important guideposts for establishing and implementing such a policy.

We believe that an adequate roster of tools and instruments already exists for any country to deal adequately with all aspects of asbestos transition, including the prevention of cancers, handling and banning of asbestos and promoting alternatives, as well as measuring and addressing social and economic impacts. For this reason, we are inviting all countries, including «L\_Country», to examine the Instruments listed in the asbestos profiles and for you to consider ratifying these if you have not done so already, or to further strengthen their implementation where

they have been ratified. Since asbestos is still present in many countries (including where bans are in effect) we are also requesting that you identify and keep records of existing stocks and uses of asbestos within your country and then adopt a strategy to eliminate them.

We also believe that «L\_Country» and other countries that have banned asbestos have a special role to play in promoting a world ban. You are in a position to work with us and the trade union and employer groups in your country to help convince those governments that still use, produce or trade in asbestos to cease doing so, as a matter of urgent necessity and to start planning a transition process, without delay. An analysis of our country profiles show that a priority list of countries would include the following:

1	ALGERIA	1	KAZAKHSTAN		FEDERATION**	2	EGYPT
1	ANGOLA	1	KOREA (D.P.R. - NORTH)	1	SENEGAL	2	FIJI
1	AZERBAIJAN			1	SINGAPORE	2	GEORGIA
1	BANGLADESH	1	KOREA (SOUTH - REP.)	1	SRI LANKA	2	GUINEA
1	BELARUS			1	SWAZILAND	2	HONG KONG
1	BELIZE	1	KYRGYZSTAN	1	SYRIAN ARAB REP.	2	KENYA
1	BOLIVIA**	1	MACEDONIA (F.D.R.)**	1	THAILAND	2	MALDIVES
1	BOTSWANA			1	TUNISIA	2	MAURITIUS
1	BRAZIL**	1	MALAWI	1	TURKEY	2	MOROCCO
1	BULGARIA	1	MALAYSIA	1	TURKMENISTAN	2	MYANMAR
1	CANADA**	1	MEXICO	1	UKRAINE	2	NAMIBIA
1	CHINA	1	MOLDOVA (REPUBLIC)	1	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2	NICARAGUA
1	COLUMBIA**			1	UNITED STATES	2	PHILIPPINES
1	CUBA	1	MONGOLIA	1	UZBEKISTAN	2	ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES
1	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	MOZAMBIQUE	1	VENEZUELA	2	SUDAN
1	ECUADOR**	1	NIGERIA	1	VIET NAM	2	TAJIKISTAN
1	EL SALVADOR	1	OMAN	1	ZIMBABWE**	2	UGANDA**
1	GUATEMALA**	1	PAKISTAN	2	ALBANIA	2	ZAMBIA
1	INDIA	1	PANAMA	2	BAHRAIN		
1	INDONESIA	1	PERU	2	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**		
1	IRAN	1	ROMANIA				
		1	RUSSIAN				

#1 countries produce, import or export asbestos in high quantities. #2 countries, in lower quantities (see profiles).

\*\* Countries that have Ratified ILO Convention 162.

Global Unions feel that «L\_Country» can help promote the world ban of asbestos in very concrete ways:

- **Promoting national bans** via your own relations with the above countries, either diplomatically, through trade relations, Official Development Assistance (ODA) or through policies influencing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) or other financial flows;
- **Engaging in positive actions** through various regional and global institutions where you are a member (CSD, ILO, UNEP, WTO, WHO and elsewhere), within International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and through other intergovernmental bodies such as the OECD and the EU and other intergovernmental regional bodies;
- **Supporting the efforts of the ban asbestos campaign** by helping to build supportive networks, financing awareness raising programmes, promoting north/south training and education and providing resources for communication and organising, as well as promoting tripartite national negotiation processes for change;
- **Filling out the enclosed questionnaire**, providing a contact point to facilitate communication with this asbestos ban campaign.

It is our conviction that a world ban of asbestos can be planned and organised with positive social and health effects for everyone and we look forward to the possibility of working with your government on this important matter. In the meantime we would appreciate it if you could contact our officer responsible in this area, Mr. Lucien Royer at [royer@tuac.org](mailto:royer@tuac.org).

Yours sincerely,



ICFTU General Secretary



TUAC General Secretary

**Letter Delivered to Cluster #2 Governments** that neither produce asbestos nor engage in its trade, and have not banned it (Delivered in French, English or Spanish).

**From the Global Unions** (Rnk2)  
**To the June ILC 2005 Government Delegation of:**

**«L\_Country»**

**(Hand Delivered): «L\_Country»,**  
**To: ILC Government Delegation**  
**c.c. ILC Worker & ILC Employer Delegations**  
**c.c. ICFTU & TUAC Affiliates (by Post)**

Dear Delegation Leader,

**‘Global Asbestos Ban Campaign’**  
**Adopt a National Policy for a World Ban of Asbestos**  
**8 June, 2005 - Campaign Kick-Off, ILO Geneva**

On behalf of Global Unions we would like to formally request that your Government support efforts to ban the use and commercialisation of asbestos, world-wide. We would also like to invite you to join a trade union campaign kick-off for such a ban that will take place from **1-2 p.m., 8 June in room XIX at the ILO in Geneva** (see enclosed information poster).

We are aware that «L\_Country» is not a producer and does not engage in the trade of asbestos. However, because of the ubiquitous uses of asbestos in the world for nearly a century, it is highly probable that asbestos still exists in your country in some form and that it is still being used or consumed, even perhaps in small quantities. Moreover because of your unique situation as a non or low asbestos user, your country is in a unique situation to help with efforts internationally to ban asbestos. We would like to appeal to your government to work with us, our member affiliate(s) in your country and the ILO in upcoming years to implement such a global ban.

We believe the evidence showing the dangers of asbestos to be irrefutable. There is much literature available concerning the deaths due to asbestos of 100,000 people in the world every year, and the resulting costs to society. Some of the evidence can be found in different languages in the *ILO Encyclopaedia Of Occupational Health and Safety* at: <http://www.ilo.org/encyclopaedia/?find=&bsearch=asbesto&whereSelectSW=1>.

Attached to this letter you will find a copy of an asbestos country profile we have prepared for «L\_Country». You will see that it shows you to be a non or low asbestos producer or trader. It also shows what relevant UN Instruments your government has or has not ratified, relative to asbestos and other socio-economic factors.

A similar asbestos profile (along with a fuller explanatory Annex, with references) is available for all countries at: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpl\\_6.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpl_6.EN.pdf).

An integral part of our campaign will be to promote the engagement of all actors in decision-making about the banning of asbestos. We invite governments to engage with employers and workers’ organisations, as well as with the broader community in developing their own national policy for a world ban of asbestos. A very important aspect of our objectives will be to place the promotion of a ban within the social and economic realities of each country, especially with respect to potential impacts on employment.

If planned properly, job losses can be effectively offset by developing a positive employment transition process that is linked to the banning of asbestos. The ILO *Employment Policy Convention 122* and its accompanying Recommendation, along with the ILO Resolution on the *Social and Economic Consequences of Preventative Action*, together can serve as important guideposts for establishing and implementing such a policy.

We believe that an adequate roster of tools and instruments already exists for any country to deal adequately with all aspects of asbestos transition, including the prevention of cancers, handling and banning of asbestos and promoting alternatives, as well as measuring and addressing social and economic impacts. For this reason, we are

inviting all countries, including «L\_Country», to examine the Instruments listed in the asbestos profiles and for you to consider ratifying these if you have not done so already, or to further strengthen their implementation where they have been ratified. Since asbestos is still present in many countries (including where it is no longer produced or imported), we are also requesting that you identify and keep records of existing stocks and uses of asbestos within your country and then adopt a strategy to eliminate them.

We also believe that «L\_Country» and other countries like you have a special role to play in promoting a world ban. You are in a position to work with us and the trade union and employer groups in your country to help convince those governments that still use, produce or trade in asbestos to cease doing so, as a matter of urgent necessity and to start planning a transition process, without delay. An analysis of our country profiles shows that a priority list of countries would include the following:

1	ALGERIA	1	KAZAKHSTAN		TION**	2	EGYPT
1	ANGOLA	1	KOREA (D.P.R. - NORTH)	1	SENEGAL	2	FIJI
1	AZERBAIJAN			1	SINGAPORE	2	GEORGIA
1	BANGLADESH	1	KOREA (SOUTH - REP.)	1	SRI LANKA	2	GUINEA
1	BELARUS			1	SWAZILAND	2	HONG KONG
1	BELIZE	1	KYRGYZSTAN	1	SYRIAN ARAB REP.	2	KENYA
1	BOLIVIA**	1	MACEDONIA (F.D.R.)**	1	THAILAND	2	MALDIVES
1	BOTSWANA			1	TUNISIA	2	MAURITIUS
1	BRAZIL**	1	MALAWI	1	TURKEY	2	MOROCCO
1	BULGARIA	1	MALAYSIA	1	TURKMENISTAN	2	MYANMAR
1	CANADA**	1	MEXICO	1	UKRAINE	2	NAMIBIA
1	CHINA	1	MOLDOVA (REPUBLIC)	1	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2	NICARAGUA
1	COLUMBIA**			1	UNITED STATES	2	PHILIPPINES
1	CUBA	1	MONGOLIA	1	UZBEKISTAN	2	ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES
1	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	MOZAMBIQUE	1	VENEZUELA	2	SUDAN
1	ECUADOR**	1	NIGERIA	1	VIET NAM	2	TAJKISTAN
1	EL SALVADOR	1	OMAN	1	ZIMBABWE**	2	UGANDA**
1	GUATEMALA**	1	PAKISTAN	2	ALBANIA	2	ZAMBIA
1	INDIA	1	PANAMA	2	BAHRAIN		
1	INDONESIA	1	PERU	2	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**		
1	IRAN	1	ROMANIA				
		1	RUSSIAN FEDERATION**				

#1 countries produce, import or export asbestos in high quantities. #2 countries, in lower quantities (see profiles).

\*\* Countries that have Ratified ILO Convention 162.

Global Unions feel that «L\_Country» can help promote the world ban of asbestos in very concrete ways:


- **Promoting national bans** via your own relations with the above countries, either diplomatically, through trade relations or through the establishment of policies of various regional or global institutions where you are a member (CSD, ILO, UNEP, WTO, WHO and elsewhere), within International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and through other intergovernmental activities;
- **Supporting the efforts of the ban asbestos campaign** by helping to build supportive networks, promoting awareness raising programmes, promoting north/south training and education and providing resources for communication and organising, as well as promoting tripartite national negotiation processes for change;
- **Filling out the enclosed questionnaire**, providing a contact point to facilitate communication with this asbestos ban campaign.

It is our conviction that a world ban of asbestos can be planned and organised with positive social and health effects for everyone and we look forward to the possibility of working with your government on this important matter. In the meantime we would appreciate it if you could contact our officer responsible in this area, Mr. Lucien Royer at [royer@tuac.org](mailto:royer@tuac.org).

Yours sincerely,



ICFTU General Secretary



TUAC General Secretary



**Letter Delivered to Cluster #3a and #3b Governments** that have not banned asbestos but either produce it or engage in its trade, or both. (Delivered in French, English or Spanish)

**From the Global Unions** (Rnk3)  
**To the ILC 2005 Government Delegation of:**  
**«L\_Country»**

**(Hand Delivered) to:** «L\_Country»,  
**To:** ILC Government Delegation  
**c.c. ILC Worker & ILC Employer Delegations**  
**c.c. ICFTU & TUAC Affiliates (by Post)**

Dear Delegation Leader,

**‘Global Asbestos Ban Campaign’**  
**Adopt a National Ban of Asbestos**  
**8 June, 2005 - Campaign Kick-Off, ILO Geneva**

Trade Unions attending last December’s World Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) agreed to a world ban on the use and commercialisation of asbestos. On behalf of Global Unions we would like to formally request that your Government engage in a tripartite process to consider how such a national ban might be instituted in «L\_Country». We would also like to invite you to attend a trade union kick-off for a world ban of asbestos that will take place from **1-2 p.m., 8 June in room XIX at the ILO** in Geneva (see enclosed information poster) and to report the outcome to your government after you return home.

We are aware that «L\_Country» currently produces or engages in trade of asbestos and we would like to appeal to your government to work with us, our member affiliate(s) in your country and the ILO in upcoming years to consider how a national ban might be adopted to the benefit of all.

We believe the evidence showing the dangers of asbestos to be irrefutable. There is much literature available concerning the deaths due to asbestos of 100,000 people in the world every year, and the resulting costs to society. Some of the evidence can be found in different languages in the *ILO Encyclopaedia Of Occupational Health and Safety* at: <http://www.ilo.org/encyclopaedia/?find=&bsearch=asbesto&whereSelectSW=1>.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a copy of an asbestos country profile we have prepared for «L\_Country». You will see that it shows the levels of production, as well as imports and exports of asbestos taking place in your country. It also shows the estimated number of deaths that result from this activity. The profiles show the steps you have taken so far in ratifying certain UN Instruments, relative to asbestos. They also show how you fare with respect to other socio-economic baseline factors that relate to asbestos and to the participation of workers in determining various asbestos outcomes.

A similar asbestos profile (along with a fuller explanatory Annex with references) is available for all countries at: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpl\\_6.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpl_6.EN.pdf).

An integral part of our campaign will be to promote the engagement of all actors in decision-making about the banning of asbestos. We invite governments to engage with employers and workers’ organisations, as well as with the broader community in developing their own policy for a world ban of asbestos. A very important aspect of our objectives will be to place the promotion of a ban within the social and economic realities of each country, especially with respect to potential impacts on employment.

If planned properly, job losses can be effectively offset by developing a positive employment transition process that is linked to the banning of asbestos. The ILO *Employment Policy Convention* 122 and its accompanying Recommendation, along with the ILO Resolution on the *Social and Economic Consequences of Preventative Action*, together can serve as important guideposts for establishing and implementing such a policy.

We believe that an adequate roster of tools and instruments already exists for any country to deal adequately with all aspects of asbestos transition, including the prevention of cancers, handling and banning of asbestos and promoting alternatives, as well as measuring and addressing social and economic impacts. For this reason, we are inviting all countries, including «L\_Country», to examine the Instruments listed in the asbestos profiles and for you to consider ratifying these if you have not done so already or to further strengthen their implementation, where they have been ratified.

We regard ILO Convention 162 as particularly important, as this sets out general principles as well as protective and preventative measures for asbestos uses, including for its banning. If you have already ratified this Convention you might consider using it now as a tool toward establishing a national ban. Since asbestos is still present in many countries (including where bans are in effect) we are also requesting that you identify and keep records of existing stocks and uses of asbestos within your country and then to adopt a strategy to eliminate them.

We believe that «L\_Country» and other countries that currently use asbestos or engage in its trade have a unique opportunity to learn from the experience of other countries that have already banned or are about to ban asbestos to identify a process that best suits your situation for implementing a ban. Working with these countries would be useful in better understanding the available alternatives that exist for asbestos and for addressing the distributional impacts of banning asbestos whilst promoting economic benefits. These countries are as follows:

CHILE**	FINLAND**	LATVIA	SLOVAKIA
ARGENTINA	FRANCE	LITHUANIA	SLOVENIA**
AUSTRALIA	GERMANY**	LUXEMBOURG	SOUTH AFRICA
AUSTRIA	GREECE	MALTA	SPAIN
BELGIUM**	HUNGARY	MONACO	SWEDEN**
CROATIA**	ICELAND	NEW ZEALAND	SWITZERLAND**
CYPRUS**	IRELAND	NORWAY	THE NETHERLANDS
CZECH REPUBLIC	ITALY	POLAND	UNITED KINGDOM
DENMARK	JAPAN**	PORTUGAL**	URUGUAY**
ESTONIA	KUWAIT	SAUDI ARABIA	

\*\* Countries that have Ratified ILO Convention 162.

Global Unions feel that «L\_Country» can begin the process toward a non-asbestos transition by:


- **Working with and learning from** the above countries, as well as with the ILO and WHO to determine the best non-asbestos pathways for your country;
- **Promoting awareness-raising and dialogue** with your national trade union and employer bodies, along with science and health groups to consider how best to implement adopted measures;
- **Remaining connected to our network** by filling out the enclosed questionnaire, providing a contact point to facilitate communication with this asbestos ban campaign.

It is our conviction that a world ban of asbestos can be planned for and organised with positive social and health effects for everyone and we look forward to the possibility of working with your government on this important matter. In the meantime we would appreciate it if you could contact our officer responsible in this area, Mr. Lucien Royer at [royer@tuac.org](mailto:royer@tuac.org).

Yours sincerely,



ICFTU General Secretary  
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions



TUAC General Secretary  
Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD

This letter has been sent to all ICFTU affiliates,  
throughout the world (in English, French or Spanish)

In reply please quote:  
Circular N° 20(2005)

**To all affiliated organisations  
To all Global Union Federations**

For information:  
**To all Executive Board Members**

ELS/LR/ls

17 May 2005

Dear Friends,

**Global Unions 'World Asbestos Ban'  
and the 2005 International Labour Conference**

As you know, the 18<sup>th</sup> ICFTU World Congress took the decision to engage in a world campaign to ban the uses and commercialisation of asbestos. On June 8, 2005 at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, the ICFTU is organising a kick-off ceremony for the campaign involving the ILO along with government, employer and worker representatives. In the lead up to the kick-off a Global Union consultation is being organised on 4 June, and a lobby kit is being circulated to all country representatives attending the ILC. Enclosed you will find copies of the following information:

1. The discussion document circulated prior to the June 4 Global Union consultation;
2. The letter that was hand-delivered to your government representatives at the ILC, along with the asbestos profile for your country;
3. A questionnaire that we would like you to fill out and return.

You will note that the content of the letter to your government is based on the ranking of countries, shown in Appendix B of the June 4 discussion document. The ranking process it contains is derived from our asbestos profiles that are available for all countries at: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL\\_6.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_6.EN.pdf)

The June 4th discussion document and the letter to your government outline an initial framework for a trade union asbestos campaign in your country. As an initial step I would invite our affiliates to follow up to the country letter by requesting a reply from your government and to explore how your country might engage in actions along the lines that we have suggested.

In the longer term I would invite you to examine the documentation and to define the elements of the actions that would be possible in your own country to further implement the Congress decision on asbestos.

I also invite each and every affiliate to identify at least one person that could be our contact for the asbestos campaign, internationally.

I would therefore invite you to fill and return the enclosed questionnaire as soon as possible.

I am convinced that with targeted action from all us in each country, we will have a measurable effect on the implementation of our policy and on the realisation of an effective world ban of asbestos.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guy Ryde". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

General Secretary